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LB 75

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR BAKER: Okay. And whether they want to do that. We're hoping...pinning all sorts of hope on the refiners and we...we've run down four refiners here that supply fuel to the Midwest and they...a couple of them don't mess with 85 octane, or won't, and the others are obligated to other places with it, so you know if we mandate demand in Nebraska, the price is going to be higher. That's just market at its best. So we're pinning an awfully lot of hope on the refiners, an awfully lot of hope on the pipeliners to upgrade their facilities, add tanks, and then we're also going to put some small stores out of business because they're not going to upgrade their local facilities to add another tank and pump. So with that, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. We're discussing the committee amendments to LB 75. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. Once again, this is the committee amendments that would change the date. I urge that you support the committee amendments. This is not a mandate. We've been talking about mandates, that it's going to mandate something for the consumer. It's not going to do that. It's going to require it to be offered. If ethanol prices are higher, then it will be offered but it won't be sold. But that's the problem. Right? For the last five years we've had ethanol prices below the cost of regular gasoline, but it's been priced at the same cost or higher. We haven't sold the product to the extent we should have in a time when ethanol prices have been low. We've had some sales but, really, if you look at the price differential, we've had lackluster sales. We are not mandating that anyone sell this, we're mandating that they offer. It's a totally different question. This will not make anyone buy ethanol fuels if they do not want to. This will allow the market to work, it will allow you to be able to get an ethanol-blended fuels at a lower octane than you would have had it without this bill. Currently, people are buying more octane than they have to. I've traditionally bought ethanol-blended fuels and had to buy them at a higher octane than any of my vehicles required. They performed very well. It's a clean